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U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary / Flotilla 05-03

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in NYC Holds Large-scale Communications Class

NEW YORK, NY – The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary’s ‘Flotilla 5-3’ in New York City, is celebrating the hosting and completion of a successful large-scale radio communications class for Auxiliary members. Known as ‘AUXCOM’ (Auxiliary Communications), this specialty training course focuses on radio communication knowledge and skills that members of the USCG Auxiliary can use during daily operations as well as during times of emergency.

The primary instructor of the day was John Kiernan, Commander of Flotilla 5-11 of Northern Manhattan; he was supported by Shelomo Alfassa, Vice-Commander of Flotilla 5-3, who coordinated the day’s activities. The team was helped out by Robert Scarano Jr., Vice-Commander of Division 11 and an Auxiliary Proctor. *“It’s been a while since the last AUXCOM class was offered, and I know many members were interested in this specialty class—so I created an inter-Division/Flotilla class, and quickly found out interest was tremendous,”* Alfassa said.

A total of 46 students from both New York and New Jersey participated, representing 5 Divisions and 8 separate Flotillas. Alfassa added, *“This training program aimed to support ‘The year of the Flotilla’ a affirmative call for increased engagement of members during 2014, as proclaimed by our Commodore, Vincent T. Pica”* (D1SR).

The class was attended by retiring U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Andrew Ely, who will continue with the Coast Guard through membership in the Auxiliary, as the Assistant District Staff Officer for Communications at Sector New York. *“This inter-Flotilla communications class was an outstanding achievement, and a great way to foster technical knowledge, while building comradery and fellowship among the Auxiliarists,”* said BMC Ely.

The Auxiliary has 31,000 volunteers nationwide, who proudly serve their country—in their own communities. It has become a unique force that carries out an array of responsibilities touching almost every facet of the U.S. maritime environment, focusing primarily on Recreational Boating Safety, Vessel Examinations, Public Education, Harbor Patrols, Radio Communications, Search & Rescue and Marine Environmental Protection.

Persons interested in learning more about the US Coast Guard Auxiliary can visit <http://www.cgaux.org>.

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NEW YORK - Several members of the inter-Division/Flotilla Auxiliary communications class, gathered for an end-of-class photo on 9 March 2014, in the conference room at the USCG Marine Inspection Office (MIO) building in Battery Park, NY.

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